

HAWAIIAN GAZETTE

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CHARLES S. CRANE, Manager.

FRIDAY, MARCH 31

HURTING HONOLULU.

Are the troubles of Hawaii never to cease? Inadequate shipping prevents a full harvest, bubonic plague worries at intervals, cholera comes and drives visitors away or frightens them from coming, and now, to cap the climax, the pest and those like him have yammered away at the Japanese war scare until the people of the Coast are thoroughly alarmed, regarding Honolulu as the center of a mine that is about to explode.

The last mail brought hundreds of letters from anxious ones, imploring their relatives here to return to the mainland and safety. During the past week there have been numerous cablegrams from still more anxious ones.

We may laugh at the war scare, knowing as we do what trifling foundation there is for all the hysterics, but it is costing us more than even the cholera scare did, while, if persisted in, the effect upon Hawaiian securities is going to be felt and severely.

The Advertiser does not want to put itself up as any adviser to the afternoon papers, but why should they publish all the sensational rot that has appeared in the Coast newspapers, much of it wrong as we know and the rest of it with probably no better foundation?

If the situation is one-tenth as alarming as the mainland press would have it appear, the very republication of the alarming articles here may precipitate the trouble. Where we have so many Japanese residents and so many soldiers, the promptings of war talk might bring about a clash at any time in Chinatown, a clash that could grow to the extent of a race riot provided sufficient jingoism is drilled into the precipitants beforehand. At any time a drunken row could be transformed into something of an international nature.

There is going to be no war, unless a jingo press, regardless of consequences, incites the nation and prepares the way for something analogous to the blowing up of the Maine.

Unless some good purpose is to be served, which this paper confesses it can not see, there should be "nothing doing" locally in war scare stories.

POI AND QUARANTINE.

The poi shop union, which went on strike some time ago and refused to allow some of the least dirty shops to be opened unless all were to be allowed to recommence business as they stood, is going to be responsible for at least another week of poi quarantine. This will mean that the through passengers of the Korea will not be allowed to come ashore, that the passengers of the Nippon Maru will stay on their boat in port, that the officers and soldiers on the transport Sheridan will be cooped up and not allowed to stretch their legs in Honolulu, that the crew of the transport Crook will either have to go into quarantine or stay aboard and that the Honolulu will be seriously inconvenienced.

This is what Honolulu gets for not rallying unanimously behind the board of health and its campaign against filthy poi. It must not be forgotten that the Chinese refused to open the shops the board said could resume business, declaring that it was to be all or none.

The legislature—or at least the senate—is holding up the poi bill for another public meeting on the subject. When the business men of the community realize that the delay is costing them a good many dollars, the public meeting is likely to turn out to be something not expected by the senators.

There are some who regard the disappearance of cholera with the closing of the poi shops as coincidence and refuse to credit the belief of the board of health that poi is to be traced to the spread of the disease. Even so, that provides no ground for opposition to the campaign of the board for at least an attempt at cleanliness in poi manufacture.

The senate health committee should get busy on the bill. The public has been heard from already and there is no excuse for delay. This city can not afford to be quarantined against the world to suit the desires of the proprietors of some score of dirty poi shops.

THE SCHOOL BILL VOTE.

Those who voted in the senate yesterday against the school fund bill may have some reason for what they did, but they have not taken the public into their confidence. Certainly they cannot expect any one to credit them with so little judgment and sound sense as to accept their expressed reasons as their real ones.

The bill is a comprehensive one, the result of a great deal of earnest labor, and has been carefully drafted to advance the best good of the Territory by providing a way for the better education of the children. That there might be objections to some sections of the bill would not be surprising, but that six members of the upper house of the legislature should calmly vote against it in toto, without offering amendments or suggesting an alternative measure shows that we have not advanced so very far after all, in some directions, from the days of the "lady dog" assembly.

It is understood that the vote of Senator Cecil Brown, as finally recorded, was cast against the bill because it was seen that the measure would be defeated yesterday and a way to enable a reconsideration had to be provided.

It requires eight votes to carry the bill on third reading. Senators Quinn and Kaleiopa were absent yesterday. It is inconceivable that either of them would vote against the school fund measure, and their votes and that of Senator Cecil Brown when changed will give a majority of nine to six. When the reconsideration comes, it is probable that the vote will be much more unanimous than that. Those senators who voted no yesterday are just as likely to vote aye the next time. That is the kind of voters they are.

RUSSIA AND CHINA.

Again China has been forced to surrender to Russian demands, and still Russia is not satisfied, it would seem, until she has secured on the Pacific what for a hundred years she has been seeking—a winter port. In Asia as in Europe Russia has so far been defeated in all her efforts to reach the unfrozen sea, but she still cherishes the ambition bequeathed her by Peter the Great.

When she seized the Korean peninsula it appeared as if she had realized her aim, and no doubt had it not been for Japan and the danger to which the very existence of the island empire was exposed by the near neighborhood of such an aggressive enemy, Russia would have been allowed to remain in possession of the country, as Japan has been since the war. But Russia's defeat in Korea and Manchuria has only checked her advance to the sea, not stopped it. Her determination is invincible and will finally succeed. It is only a matter of time before China will be forced to make a passage way for her to the Gulf of Pechili.

Russia is beginning to settle Siberia. That policy, if adhered to, is bound to bring its reward. With a large Russian population east of Lake Baikal neither China nor Japan, nor both together could successfully stand in the way of the Muscovite. In the Japanese war Russia was fighting at long range and confronted with many difficulties, not the least of which was the corruption at the national headquarters. That experience will be serviceable when the time comes to renew the former attempt, and in the mean time the policy seems to be to keep the Chinese government in a continual state of unrest and alarm.

WHAT'S THE LIMIT?

A steamship is on her way here from San Francisco to carry away an expected cargo of one thousand laborers. These will have been recruited here within two weeks by one man, at an expense of probably not over a thousand dollars.

Another steamship is on her way from Puerto Arenas, having cleared from a Spanish port for Honolulu. She is bringing fourteen hundred immigrants, the majority women and children, recruited at a cost of scores of thousands of dollars.

The labor leaving for the mainland is composed exclusively of men. How long can Hawaii stand it?

PILLAGING A HELPLESS EMPIRE.

Whatever China may do, fight or surrender to the full demands of Russia, it would appear that the rich Province of Ili is to be lost to her. Any sporadic fighting there may be along the Amur will only hasten the day of the final occupation of the territory wanted by the Muscovites. The Province of Ili is not marked as a distinctive part of Eastern Turkestan in any of the recent atlases, but it is that part of Eastern Turkestan lying north of the Bolgo Mountains, between that range and the Siberian province of Semipalatinsk.

This province, which is described as the gem of Chinese Turkestan, was lost to the Chinese Empire for a time as a result of the Mahometan uprising in Turkestan in 1870. At that period the lower Ili valley, from New Kulja downward to the mouth of the Ili river in Lake Balkash, was totally devastated by the rebels, and the Russians occupied Kulja in 1871 to restore order. Ten years later, this, the richest province in the Chinese dominions outside of China proper (always excepting Manchuria), was restored—except the extreme western portion—to the Chinese by the Russians, and Ili now again forms part of the "New Dominion." The transfer was made at the time of the conclusion of the Russo-Chinese treaty of February 12, 1881, and was accompanied by certain provisions as to the facilitation of Russian trade which now, on the heels of the abrogation of the old commercial treaty of the eve of the conclusion of a new one, Russia contends have not been complied with by China.

As to the merits of this controversy it is difficult to speak with any certainty because only the Russian side is available. On the whole, however, it appears that the "rights recovery mania" which has latterly affected the Chinese people has extended to Chinese Turkestan and Mongolia, with the result that Russia has found her policy of commercial penetration more and more impeded, so that she has taken the present opportunity to reassert it.

It cannot be said that there appear any very serious obstacles in her way. Despite many foreign declarations in favor of upholding the sovereignty and integrity of China, no power is likely to take up the cudgels in defense of Ili, and China herself is in no position to contest a Russian advance in force. The chances, therefore, are that Russia will once more occupy the valley, and this gem of Chinese Turkestan will be once more lost to the Chinese Empire, this time permanently.

Possibly that result will also be regarded diplomatically as "inevitable," as was the annexation of Korea by Japan, and nothing more said about it. But to the thoughtful, it will add another item to the list of aggressions on China and to the force of the futility of international pledges. Possibly, however, these formal Russian preparations are all merely in the way of a "demonstration," and, when she has obtained the commercial treaty she desires, she will abandon her military plans. But it is obvious that, in one way or another, she will insist on consolidating her eastward advance, and the present situation must necessarily be a more or less dramatic incident in the process, and, therefore, remain of continuous interest.

SETTING THE WORLD'S CLOCK.

On March 1, every public clock in France was set back just nine minutes and twenty-one seconds. The change was made at an early morning hour so that it would cause as little inconvenience to the general public as possible. In itself the incident might be considered trifling except that it marks the acceptance by the government of France of the standard time of the civilized world. Henceforth that republic will regulate the goings and comings of its people by the same standard that is officially observed in Greenwich, Berlin, New York, Kansas City, San Francisco and Canton. This change also furnishes another example of those world-moving influences that are working toward the better adjustment of relations among nations and peoples. These influences constantly tend toward better international and interracial understanding and consequently advance humanity to that Utopian era of universal brotherhood.

At a conference in Washington in 1882 it was suggested that the London observatory at Greenwich be accepted as the starting point for a world-encircling standard time. Each 15 degrees of longitude corresponds to exactly one hour's difference in time. Hence it was decided to make the 60th, 75th, 90th, 105th, and 120th meridians west of Greenwich the lines of hourly change in Canada and the United States. Thus we have Colonial, Eastern, Central, Mountain and Pacific zones. In applying this theory it was found necessary to vary the system somewhat to avoid, for example, a division of time in a city or other center of congested population. It was ten years after the adoption of "standard" time in Canada and the United States that Europe became interested in the system and recognized its advantages. In 1892 Belgium and Holland changed their clocks and were followed by Spain, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the Scandinavian countries. The Balkan states, Turkey in Europe, Egypt and South Africa are in the same zone, which is the 30th degree of longitude, east, or two hours ahead of Greenwich. Russia alone of all the great nations adheres to its own isolated system of measuring time, although official India has a system apart.

Although scientifically simplicity itself, it was a signal triumph for learning and civilized advancement when "standard time" became practically universal. It is the answer to what was for centuries one of the greatest problems that confronted scholars. It permits any person of intelligence to figure out the exact moment of time at any spot on the globe and it has facilitated to a remarkable extent the operation of railroad trains and telegraph service.

PASS THE LABOR RECRUITING BILLS.

The various measures introduced into the legislature yesterday to further regulate the recruiting of labor in Hawaii for employers without the Territory have precedents to justify them. They impose a hardship on no one and protect Hawaii. For that reason they should be passed without delay. As the Advertiser has several times pointed out during the past week, this little community can not be forever made a steppingstone for expensively recruited labor to reach the mainland.

Yesterday's coup against the recruiters is to be regarded as only the opening shot in the planters' fight to hold what they have. It is certain that nothing will be left undone that ingenious brains can suggest to make any attempt at recruiting labor here a costly and profitless occupation. The jailing of intending emigrants and the holding up of all labor recruits can not go on indefinitely, of course, even if Honolulu could afford to have several hundred idle men loafing around the city waiting for grand jury summons.

The planters will have to depend upon a technical battle until the legislature enacts some protecting law, while even the legislature can not, it would seem on the face of things, deprive the two licensed recruiters here of the privileges they have legally secured by payment of their license fees.

The next week or two, especially those few days following the arrival of the steamer Senator, may be looked forward to with interest.

We understand that the public lands committee of the house decided to report favorably on the Johnson franchise for a Hilo street railway because they did not "want to be bothered" further considering the matter. The measure comes up for a final reading in the house today. So far, according to members of the house committee which reported, absolutely no assurance can be given the legislature that the application for the franchise is anything but a promoter's scheme to make some easy money at the public's expense. The legislators must remember that this franchise application has to go to congress and that by the measures it submits at Washington is it judged. Is the Hawaiian legislature ready to put itself on record at Washington on the basis of the Hilo franchise bill? Is it willing that congress shall judge its ability in the terms of that document? If so, by all means pass it today.

R. S. Gault, the Y. M. C. A. man, who leaves this morning to enter a larger field for good work, leaves his influence for clean sport, and manly Christianity behind him. He has done splendid work here among a large number of boys and will be missed greatly.

A billboard man, here from the mainland, is reported in an afternoon paper as saying that he never saw "a prettier system of billboards" than those in this city. If flies could talk we might expect a like interview with panegyrics on our local measure here.

There is certainly something most sinister in the news that the revenue cutter Thetis has been ordered to Alaska. Can it be that those Japanese invaders are not going to take Honolulu after all and that the Thetis is needed to protect the approaches to Japan?

The Kepiokalani Maternity Home appears to be doing its share these days for the Hundred Thousand Club.

"Captain" Mahen is a relative of the Japanese who "also have a Japanese scare."

BIG M'BRYDE STOCK

ISSUE IS VOTED

COMPANY WILL PLACE MILLION ON MARKET AT PAR VALUE OF TWENTY DOLLARS.

An issue of a million dollars worth of stock preferred, of which \$800,000 is to be marketed immediately at par, was authorized yesterday morning at the annual meeting of the McBryde Sugar Company of Kauai. The meeting was held in the offices of Alexander & Baldwin, and the vote to issue the stock was unanimous after statements had been made by J. P. Cooke and W. A. Kinney. Mr. Kinney's statement was as follows:

"It is proposed to authorize and issue 50,000 shares of preferred stock on the par value of \$20 each, such stock to be entitled to a preferred dividend of 7 per cent per annum, the same to be cumulative, and said stock to have the right to vote on an equal footing with the common stock, but to have no right to participate in any other profits or dividends whatever, its dividend being fixed at 7 per cent per annum, and the balance of dividends to go to the common stock whatever the amount; 40,000 shares of the preferred stock to be sold at par as soon as possible to liquidate and pay off the floating indebtedness of the McBryde Sugar Company, which on the last day of December last amounted to about \$725,000, due the agents, Alexander & Baldwin, Limited, and \$75,000, due the First National Bank. This will leave McBryde Sugar Company free to apply her earnings in excess of her operating expenses and the dividend due on the preferred stock to any purpose or object that the stockholders of the company see fit to devote the same, including dividends on the common stock.

"The McBryde Sugar Company, it is expected, will show a profit this year over and above all operating expenses, including interest on its floating indebtedness, and it is believed that the plantation should continue to do as well in the future, barring some vital change in the conditions existing in regard to the sugar industry in Hawaii.

"The controlling stockholders have figured out that they may have to wait five to seven years while the floating indebtedness is paid off out of the profits before they can expect a dividend, unless they can by one stroke issue preferred stock and place the property on a dividend-paying basis in the near future.

"The plan is to offer the preferred stock in the first instance pro rata to each stockholder, according to his or her individual holding, for a term of sixty days, all not so disposed of to be then disposed of at par as the board of directors shall decide.

"The issuance of the preferred stock eliminates any enforceable claim or debt against McBryde Sugar Company, Limited, except its obligation upon bonds.

"The stock will not be sold for less than par, and no discounts or commissions will figure in the transaction, so that the McBryde Sugar Company will realize par value on every share of preferred stock issued under the foregoing plan. No stockholder will, of course, be compelled to take the preferred stock, it being merely a matter of election on his or her part whether they shall do so or not.

"The preferred stock can be exchanged for common stock at any time at the election of the individual holder thereof, but the exchange once made becomes irrevocable."

Directors and officers were elected as follows at the meeting:

Directors—H. P. Baldwin, B. F. Dillingham, D. P. R. Isenberg, W. A. Kinney, J. P. Cooke, E. E. Paxton, John Guild.

Officers—H. P. Baldwin, president; B. F. Dillingham, first vice-president; D. P. R. Isenberg, second vice-president; J. P. Cooke, treasurer; E. E. Paxton, secretary; D. B. Murdoch, auditor. Alexander & Baldwin stand ready to take the preferred stock at par and the scheme of establishing the plantation upon a dividend paying basis in the near future is assured.

Report of Manager.

Manager Wm. Stodart's report said: "The past year, with the exception of three months in summer, has been cold and rather unfavorable for cane, but I am pleased to state that at no time throughout the year have the crops suffered from lack of water." A table of rainfall at the eight different stations is given, showing a range of from 23.74 to 152.02 inches and the following statement of crop is made:

"Crop 1910—This crop fell short of the estimate and turned out 10,434.56 tons.

"Crop 1911—This crop, now being harvested, which at the start experienced several months of dry weather, had full and regular irrigations during the following twelve months. The yields of cane from the fields already harvested have so far come up to my expectations, and this crop bids fair to yield in the neighborhood of 14,000 tons.

"Crop 1912—This crop consists of 1597.88 acres of plant cane, 967.01 acres of long ratoons and 110.30 acres of short ratoons, or a total of 2675.19 acres. The planting of this crop commenced in February with top seed and ended August 21, 1910. The ratoons were also all killed up in good season, so that with favorable weather conditions it ought to give a good return.

"Our operating expenses for the 1910 crop, exclusive of interest and bonded debt charges, but including \$46,699.89 for depreciation, and \$12,608.04 for a special U. S. F. assessment, were \$668,585.00, or \$57,715.40 per month. Our receipts from the same crop and sundry earnings were \$502,988.74."

The rest of the report deals with water development and electric power and sugar duties.

LUMBER TRUST CASE

ENDS IN FAVOR OF

THE DEFENDANTS

After years of waiting the lumber trust case was finally disposed of yesterday by Judge Dole, who handed down a decision in favor of the defendants.

In making his decision, Judge Dole said:

Failure to Prove.

"The petition must be denied, the evidence having failed to prove the allegations or any of them which might, if established, show a violation of the act. In the normal course of business by competing companies, especially where all deal in certain commodities on a large scale, their prices naturally tend toward an equilibrium, which may at times be disturbed by the action of one of such companies in lowering its prices in order to obtain what it may consider as its share of the trade, or perhaps more than its share. In such a case the influence of competition tend to restore such equilibrium, either by the action of the other competing companies in lowering their prices to meet the cut, or holding them, being able to do so without loss of trade, in which case, the company which has lowered its prices may either return to the prices of its competitors or may continue to compete with them upon the lower basis, the tendency being that either the former course will be adopted or the other companies will follow its lead.

Natural Condition.

"This equilibrium of prices, with occasional disturbances thereof, is the natural condition of trade under free competition, and there is no element of illegality in it, whether it is reached by a suspicious watchfulness of each other's dealings by the competing companies, or by a friendly exchange of information and views as to the state of the market, with an expectation, more or less definite, that they will all approximate to the same standards. The element of illegality only exists where there is an agreement or understanding that they will stand together in fixing the prices of commodities with the object of controlling prices and monopolizing the business, and such agreement or understanding is in some way made or intended to be binding.

No Binding Quality.

"This analysis fairly gives the relations of the defendants to each other. There was no binding quality in the mutual expectation of the defendants, if there was such an expectation, that they would follow each other's lead in fixing prices of lumber, nor was there any intention that there should be such a binding effect. They were all free to conduct their respective operations as they pleased. The price lists severally adopted by them were convenient merely as a basis of dealing with customers, and all of the defendants freely competed with each other in their sales of lumber, in the way of discounts on the price lists and in other ways as well.

Statute Not Violated.

"There is no feature in the arrangement between the American-Hawaiian Steamship Company and the defendants which develops a violation of the statute on the part of the defendants. They accepted the proposition of that company to pool their orders for lumber to be shipped on its vessels, in order to obtain the lower freight rates offered for large shipments. If there was an impropriety in such an arrangement, it was on the part of the steamship company in not giving all shippers the benefit of it.

"Decree may be entered dismissing the petition with costs to the defendants."

PROVING VALUE

OF VACCINATION

Manila Cable-News.—Dr. Victor G. Heiser, director of the bureau of health, who returned from a trip to Cullion Monday evening, tells an interesting story of the value of vaccination in the case of residents of the island of Calayan, which was recently stricken with an epidemic of small-pox.

Doctor Heiser and party visited this island, which is located off the southern coast of Mindoro and has a population of about 2000. Upon visiting the homes of the residents the party found that sometimes out of a family of six persons, four were stricken with the disease while the other two were not affected in the least.

Upon examination it was discovered that the people who were not taken with the disease had previously been vaccinated, and those who were sick had not been vaccinated.

About 1000 people have been sick with the disease and probably 200 have died. Eight hundred of the remaining residents have been vaccinated and it is thought that the spread of the disease has been stopped.

TRUSTEE MUST PAY

PART OF THE LOSSES

Judgment was given yesterday morning by Judge Dole in the Monmarat bankruptcy case. He sustained the appeal from the accounts of the trustee on several grounds and ordered A. E. Cooke and the trustee to make reparation.

The court found that the sale of 100 shares of the Palolo Land and Improvement Company to A. F. Cooke, made in 1908 by the trustee, was invalid as the shares, if offered by public auction, would have brought five dollars each. Cooke was ordered to pay the balance with interest or return the shares and get his money back.

The trustee was also blamed for not exercising due diligence in collecting the debts of the estate and the loss of this was placed at \$308.50. He was ordered to pay one-half of this amount and also the sum of \$22.85, being interest on taxes needlessly left unpaid.